

PACKET UNSTOPPER SYSTEM  
FOR A PARALLEL PACKET SWITCH

ABSTRACT

A system for controlling egress buffer saturation  
5 includes, for each data packet flow, a comparator for  
comparing the number of data packets 'WPC' temporarily stored  
within an egress buffer to a predefined threshold value  
'WPCth'. The packet sequence number 'PSNr' of a last received  
in-sequence data packet and each highest packet sequence  
10 number 'HPSNj' received through respective ones of the  
plurality of switching planes is stored. By comparing the  
last received in-sequence packet sequence number 'PSNr' to  
each highest packet sequence number 'HPSNj' when the number of  
data packets 'WPC' exceeds the predefined threshold value  
15 'WPCth' a determination as to which switching plane(s), among  
the plurality of switching planes, to unstop the flow of data  
packets can be made.